INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter nal Application No PCT/GB2004/004768

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B08B9/043 B08 B08B9/045 C23C16/44 According to International Palent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B08B C23C IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y US 6 263 535 B1 (WANG) 1-6,8,24 July 2001 (2001-07-24) 10 - 17abstract column 1, line 5 - column 3, line 5 figures Y US 5 935 283 A (SWEENEY ET AL) 1-6,8, 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10) 10-17 abstract column 1, line 15 - line 66
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column 10, line 7 - column 11, line 19 figures Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 08/03/2005 21 February 2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016

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